

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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RICHMOND, VA. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1897.

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TAKE THE MEN BACK

RETRENTION COMMITTEE ADVISES THAT THIS BE DONE.

SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DISMISSED.

Dr. OPPENHIMER CRITICISED FOR ACTING WITHOUT INQUIRING INTO THE FACTS—Men Worked at Polls When paid by the City.

For the first time in several months the Council Committee on Retrenchment and Reform met last night. It was one of the stormiest and most unpleasant sessions that the body has ever held. The meeting was for the purpose of considering the complaint of five ex-members of the health force, who contend that they were improperly discharged. After several hours had been spent hearing testimony the committee went into executive session and formulated its report to the council.

The committee met promptly at 8 o'clock. There were present Sub-Chairman Rountree, and Messrs. Noble, Jones, Harrelson, J. J. King, and Ebel. Dr. W. T. Oppenheimer, president of the Board of Health; Sanitary-Officer Walton, and Policeman B. M. Angle, whose names had been connected with the investigation, were also on hand.

After Clerk McDowell had read the call for the meeting the body began the hearing of evidence in the case, the nature of which has already been published in the Dispatch. It was alleged that Messrs. Ford, Johnson, Branch, Kennedy, and Cole had been interested in or cognizant of a movement to have Sanitary-Officer Walton removed and Mr. Angle given his place in the Health Department. Mr. John C. Branch was the first witness called. He testified that he was discharged by Mr. Walton some weeks ago for participation in a meeting at the City Hall, the object of which was it (Walton's) removal.

The point was raised by Dr. Oppenheimer that when the work spoken of was done at Mr. Walton's house the Sanitary Officer did not own the property.

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL.

This concluded the testimony, and the body, on motion of Mr. Noble, went into executive session to formulate its report to the Council. Here is the report:

That the charge of insubordination

against the men was found to be not true, and that the specifications of their having waited upon the Chief of Police for the purpose of having Mr. Johnson removed from the position of Sanitary-Officer were not true.

We, therefore, recommend that the Committee on Health re-instate

Messrs. Ford, Branch, Kennedy, Johnson, and Cole, and that they be paid per diem for the time they would have lost from the time of their discharge to the time of their reinstatement.

2. Whereas Sanitary-Inspector Walton made a report to the President of the Board of Health charging certain men without foundation, and upon hearing his part to secure the facts in the case as they existed, upon which charge the men were discharged, we recommend that the Board of Health be directed to the police force, with a request that the Board of Police Commissioners investigate his conduct.

3. That, in the opinion of your committee, from the evidence adduced, the President of the Board of Health acted hastily and without effort on his part to obtain the facts in the case before discharging the men.

4. Whereas, from information obtained from the investigation by your committee to effect that the city property, hands, and carts, controlled by the Health Department, have been made use of for private purposes, and the health employees have been compelled to pay the police on election-day on pay from the city, we recommend that further investigation of this department be made.

After the adoption of the report the committee adjourned.

Third Market Matters.

There was a regular meeting of the committee on Third Market in Room No. 11 of the City Hall last night. Present were Chairman King and Messrs. Ryan and Sneed. The clerk submitted a report showing the business done at the market during the month of August. In that time the receipts of the market amounted to \$845. This was received and filed.

The pay-roll and bills of the department were approved and ordered to be paid.

The chairman reported that he had soon into the matter of having additional gas-meters placed in the market, so as to regulate the amount of gas consumed by the stall-renters.

The sub-committee on the matter of the rates of stalls was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Ryan, Sneed, and King.

This was an informal discussion of the matter of plans for building up of the market, and upon the request of the stall-renters it was decided to recommend to the Council an ordinance permitting men to bring up in the market to sell stuff from daylight till 8 P. M. all week-days, except Saturdays.

A regular meeting of the Committee on St. John's Burying-ground was held at St. John's church last evening. Only routine business was transacted.

WILL WED IN NOVEMBER.

Mrs. Langtry Confirms the Rumors of Her Engagement.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 24.—The announcement came that Mrs. Lilly Langtry will marry Prince Esterhazy confirmed. Attorney Henry C. McPike, of this city, is authority for the announcement.

"Yes, sir; I was told to scratch Captain King for one," laconically replied the witness.

Being asked if he ever done any work on Mr. Walton's property, the witness said that he had not.

SENT TO POLLS TO WORK.

Mr. C. Kennedy, who was also discharged from the force at the instance of Officer Walton, testified that he knew nothing about the alleged City Hall meeting. On one occasion he sent to Mr. Walton's house by his order two or three jacks to raise his residence, and some plank and thim, belonging to the city. Witness said that he had heard that some members of the force would remain before the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, because they were afraid they would be discharged. Mr. King asked Mr. Kennedy if he had ever heard of any members of the Health Department being sent to the polls on election-day and working in the interest of any candidate for the Council.

"Yes, sir," said the witness. "I was sent there myself once by Dr. Oppenheimer. He wanted me to work for Mr. Boykin, who was a candidate for the Council at that time."

Mr. Kennedy, in reply to questions, said that he was paid upon that occasion by the city. The man who then made up his mind was not now.

"We were paid especially on the day we were sent to the polls," said Mr. King.

"Yes, sir; I was told to scratch Captain King for one," laconically replied the witness.

Mr. Ford testified that he knew nothing about the movement to call upon Major Howard in the interest of the removal of Mr. Walton. He was sent to the polls to work for Mr. Boykin once by Dr. Oppenheimer, and was paid by the city. The witness would not like to say whether he was instructed as to having any one scratch.

WHAT OFFICER ANGLE SAID.

Mr. Cole, who admitted before the Committee on Health that he had been told by Mr. Angle that if some of the men would see Major Howard they would get him in the place of Mr. Walton for their boss, was next called, and he stated that Mr. Angle had made such a remark to him, and that he then repeated it to the chief of police about the same time.

The witness said he knew nothing about the matter under consideration. He had not, however, gone to see the chief of police about the same time.

The witness said he knew nothing about the movement to call upon Major Howard in the interest of the removal of Mr. Walton. He was sent to the polls to work for Mr. Boykin once by Dr. Oppenheimer, and was paid by the city. The witness would not like to say whether he was instructed as to having any one scratch.

RELEASE OF THE DE NIELS.

They Had Been Arrested for Evading Board Bills.

LONDON, September 24.—Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Serge de Niel, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Rio Grande," were discharged from custody at the Clerkenwell Court to-day, the charges brought against them of defrauding hotels and boarding-houses having been dismissed upon their counsel offering to pay the bills, and stating that money for that purpose had been received from the United States. Counsel had gone to the Continent immediately, it was released.

A majority of the judges consented to the discharge of the prisoners, but the foreman of the jury protested against their release on the ground that it would defeat justice.

The money for the payment of the bills of the complaining boarding-house keepers and hotel proprietors was paid into court.

Edgar Serge de Niel is said to be a commander in the Brazilian navy.

Homicide in Alabama.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., September 24.—A dispatch to the Associated Press says: "J. G. Leland by A. Stoneking, a railroad contractor, Stones, a railroad contractor, Stones, invited Leland to take a walk. The latter refused, saying he only drank with gentlemen; so he left. Stoneking followed and shot Leland in the abdomen. Leland was a member of the firm of Dunne & Leland Brothers, one of the most extensive railroad contracting firms in the state."

GUILTY OF INSUBORDINATION.

The next witness was Dr. Oppenheimer, president of the Board of Health, who

after rehearsing the history of the dismissal of the five men, said that it had been reported to him that these men had been in the movement to have Officer Walton removed. He regarded this as insubordination, and in order for the department to run in harmony, nothing of that sort could be allowed in a branch of the city work. He had discharged the employees, and the Health Committee had approved his action in this respect. "I learned," said Dr. Oppenheimer, "that none of these men went to see Major Howard, but there was insubordination on the part of some of them, and I felt that no one could be harmed by their dismissal."

Mr. Jones asked why the men were discharged, and Dr. Oppenheimer said that it had been done because of the discord which they had created in the service. The President of the Board of Health asked that the minutes of the Health Committee pertaining to this subject be read, and this was done.

Dr. Oppenheimer then asked if he had sent men to the polls to work in the interest of any candidates for the Council, and he said that some of the members of the force had volunteered to go to the polls and work, and had been allowed to do so.

"As to whether or not these men were paid for that day's work by the city," continued Dr. Oppenheimer, "the books in the City Auditor's office will show."

The minutes of the recent meeting of the Health Committee were read at this juncture of the proceedings, and the conclusion of which body heard a statement from Mr. E. P. Ford, president of the Board of Health, Sanitary-Officer Walton, and Policeman B. M. Angle, whose names had been connected with the investigation, were also on hand.

Mr. Jones asked why the men were discharged, and Dr. Oppenheimer said that it had been done because of the discord which they had created in the service. The President of the Board of Health asked that the minutes of the Health Committee pertaining to this subject be read, and this was done.

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